

CABLE DROP MONITOR WITH UPSTREAM SIGNALLING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A time slot is provided for each terminal
unit or cable drop of a signal distribution system
in a repeated sequence to communicate detected
conditions "upstream". The time slots are defined
10 in accordance with a time base responsive to
broadcast time signals. An identification of each
terminal unit is transmitted from a directional
coupler corresponding to the terminal unit or
cable drop after latching an output of a condition
15 detector responsive to detection of a condition by
a sequence of tones or tone pairs, preferably
using circuits ubiquitous in the
telecommunications industry. A printer is
provided for each channel at a central facility
20 and the transmitting terminal unit is identified
in response to another time base operating
synchronously with the time base defining the time
slots and assigning the time slots to respective
terminal units. Provision is made for
synchronization of counters, error checking and
control of polling frequency.